



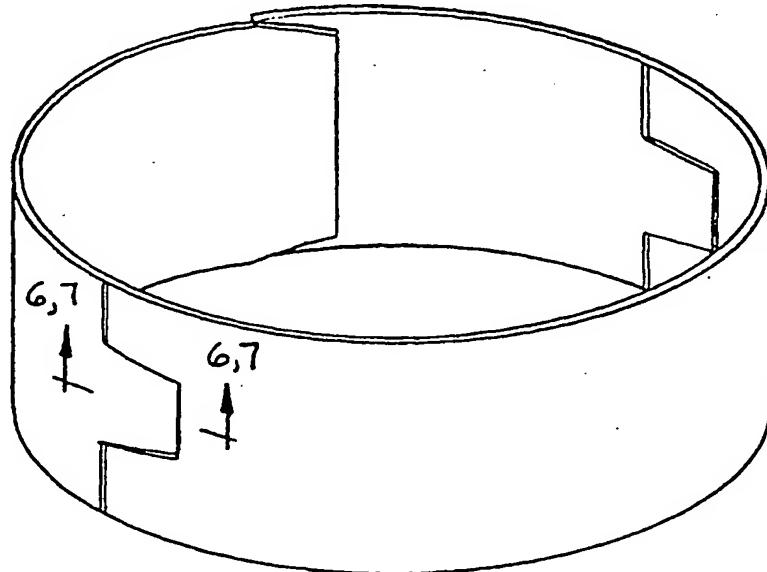
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY [US/US]; Two Manhattanville Road, Purchase, NY 10577 (US).			
(72) Inventor; and		Published	
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): JENSEN, K. [US/US]; 189 Summit Street, Lebanon, OH 45036 (US).		With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	
(74) Agent: INTERNATIONAL PAPER; 6285 Tri-Ridge Boulevard, Loveland, OH 45140 (US).			

(54) Title: LOCKING SANDWICH COLLAR

(57) Abstract

The present invention discloses an improved, cylindrical, paperboard collar (10) for placing around a specialty sandwich such as a multilayer hamburger or such. The collar blank (20) is cut from flat paperboard stock in the form of an elongated rectangle which is folded back over itself having its free ends adhesively attached to one another whereby the resulting flat preform may be expandingly opened to form a cylindrical configuration. Two tongue like locking tabs (26, 28) are cut into the paperboard surface which when the preform is expanded to form an upright cylinder the tabs act to maintain the open cylinder.



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LOCKING SANDWICH COLLAR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

5 The present invention relates to an improved cylindrical collar as typically used in the fast food industry for placing around specialty sandwiches, such as a multilayered hamburger or such, thereby maintaining the lateral alignment of the sandwich bun halves, meat patty, and selected toppings when wrapped in a paper sandwich wrap or placed in a clamshell container. Also the collar quickens the
10 building of a sandwich as the collar as serves an external form when the sandwich is assembled within the collar.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

15 Disclosed herein is an improved, cylindrical, paperboard, fast food, sandwich collar for placing around a specialty sandwich such as a multilayer hamburger or such. The collar blank is cut from flat paperboard stock in the form of an elongated rectangle which is folded back over itself having its free ends adhesively attached to one another whereby the resulting flat preform, suitable
20 for shipping, may be expandingly opened to form a cylindrical configuration. Diametrically opposing tongue like tabs are cut into the paperboard surface. Each tab is cut on three sides thereby being hingedly connected to the collar by its uncut side.

When the flat preform is expanded into its cylindrical shape the tabs act as
25 cantilever springs upon the inside surface of the collar thereby maintaining the open cylindrical shape for inserting therein a specialty food product.

Although the collar, as disclosed herein is directed to the fast food industry it is to be understood that the invention disclosed and taught may be used for a variety of
30 end uses other than a sandwich wrap in the fast food industry. For example, the

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collar may be used as a spacer within a shipping container to encircle and protect damageable products during shipping. Further the collar taught herein may be used as a temporary arm band to identify persons of authority or of a select group. Still further the collar may be given a crown like configuration and used 5 by children or issued as a promotional tool for advertising. Other end uses will surely come to mind by imaginable persons.

Because of the wide range of possible uses for my collapsible collar the end use thereof is not to be construed as applicable solely to the fast food industry as a 10 sandwich packaging device. The sandwich packaging device, as disclosed herein, was merely the catalyst for discovery of the broad invention taught and claimed below.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

15 Figure 1 presents a pictorial view of my improved band in its erected configuration ready for use.

Figure 2 presents a plan view of the paperboard blank from which the band is 20 formed.

Figure 3 presents a top plan view of the blank as shown in figure 2 after the first fold is made.

25 Figure 4 presents a top plan view of the blank as shown in figure 3 after the second fold is made and represents the non-erected preform of the band as illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 5 presents the bottom view of the band preform as shown in figure 4.

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Figure 6 presents a sectional view taken along line 6-6 illustrating the general position of the locking tab prior to being snapped into locking engagement.

Figure 7 presents a sectional view taken along line 7-7 illustrating the general 5 position of the locking tab after it is snapped into locking engagement.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT:

Figure 1 presents a pictorial view of my improved band 10 in its open functional 10 configuration useful for placing around the periphery of a bun type specialty sandwich, not shown, such as a hamburger, barbecue, or other suitable food products.

Band 10 is constructed from an elongated, rectangular, paperboard blank 20 illustrated in figure 2. Blank 20 comprises three primary sections, a center section 21, and two end sections 23 and 27. Separating center section 21 and end section 23 are two score lines 22A and 22B extending from and generally perpendicular to the blank's free edge as illustrated in figure 2. Score lines 22A and 22B extend from the peripheral edge of blank 20 inwardly for approximately 20 one third, or less, of the blank width as shown in figure 2. Extending between score lines 22A and 22B is laterally extending, trapezoidal shaped tab 26 formed by cut lines 30A, 30B, and 30C. Similarly to sections 21 and 23, sections 21 and 27 are separated by tab 28 and score lines 24A and 24B. Although a trapezoidal shape is preferred for tabs 26 and 28, other configurations are possible. For 25 example cut lines 30A and 30C may be replaced by a curved cut line.

The preform 40 for band 10, as illustrated in figures 4 and 5, is made by folding end section 27 180 degrees about score lines 24A and 24B so as to overlie a portion of center section 21, as illustrated in figure 3, thereby causing tab 28 to 30 extend laterally outward from the score lines. A line of adhesive 32 is placed on the top side of tongue 32 and end section 23 is folded 180 degrees about score

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lines 22A and 22B so as to overlie center section 21 and end section 27 including adhesive line 32 whereby the inside of end section 23 is adhered to the outer side of end section 27 by adhesive line 32. Thus preform 40, as illustrated in figure 4, results. Figure 5 illustrates the reverse side of preform 40, illustrated in figure 4, 5 showing open apertures 52 and 54, and their associated, laterally extending, tabs 26 and 28 created by folding over end sections 23 and 27 as described above. Preform 40 provides a convenient configuration for shipping large quantities of my improved sandwich band.

10 The band 10, as illustrated in figure 1, is simply formed from preform 40 by expanding preform 40 into an open circular configuration whereby tabs 26 and 28 assume the configuration as illustrated in figure 6. Tabs 26 and 28 extend linearly outward from the curved periphery of center section 21 as illustrated in figure 6. Tabs 26 and 28 are then snapped inward through their associated 15 apertures 52 and 54 assuming the position as illustrated in figure 7.

When tabs 26 and 28 are snapped inside the arc A of the circular band 10 the free end of the tab frictionally engages the inside surface of center section 21 as illustrated in figure 7. Tabs 26 and 28, once snapped inside apertures 52 and 54, 20 will remain locked in place because the straight line length L of the tabs is equal to the arc length A of the curved band from the score lines 22 and 24 to the opposite end of the associated aperture 52 and 54 respectively is slightly longer than the actual chord length of arc A. Thus tabs 26 and 28 act as cantilever beams thereby supporting the load placed upon the tab (beam) end by center 25 section 21 thereby maintaining the free standing circular shape of band 10.

While there has been described hereinabove a preferred embodiment of the invention, variations and modifications and other end uses thereof will occur to those skilled in the art once they become acquainted with the basic concepts of 30 the invention. Therefore, it is intended that the appended claims shall be

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construed to include all such variations, modifications and end uses that may fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention as claimed below

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I CLAIM:

1. A paperboard blank suitable for forming a free standing circular collar comprising :
 - a) a generally flat, elongated, rectangular, paperboard, blank;
 - b) said blank divided into a center section, and two opposing end sections positioned on either side of said center section;
 - c) said center section separated from each of said end sections by a first and second score line, each of said score lines transversely aligned with one another and extending from and perpendicular to said blank's free edge;
 - d) a laterally extending tab positioned between said score lines and coplanar with said blank;
 - e) said tabs formed by cut lines extending through the thickness of said paperboard.
2. The paperboard blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein said tabs are formed by three, connected cut lines.
3. The paperboard blank as claimed in claim 2 wherein said cut lines form trapezoidal shaped tabs.
4. A method of producing a generally flat, storable, paperboard preform suitable for expanding into a cylindrical collar comprising the steps of:
 - a) cutting from flat planar paperboard stock a blank comprising:
 - 1) a generally flat, elongated, rectangular, paperboard, blank;
 - 2) said blank divided into a center section, and a first and second end section positioned on either side of said center section;
 - 3) said center section separated from each of said end sections by a first and second score line, each of said score lines

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transversely aligned with one another and extending from and perpendicular to said blank's free edge;

4) a laterally extending tab positioned between said score lines and coplanar with said blank;

5) said tabs formed by three cut lines extending through the thickness of said paperboard thereby forming trapezoidal shaped tabs;

b) folding said first end section 180 degrees, about said score lines, so as to overlie said center section;

c) folding said second end section 180 degrees about said score lines so as to overlie said first end section;

d) affixing said first end section to said second end section,

5. A method of producing a generally cylindrical paperboard collar comprising the steps of:

a) cutting from flat planar paperboard stock a blank comprising:

1) a generally flat, elongated, rectangular, paperboard, blank;

2) said blank divided into a center section, and a first and second end section positioned on either side of said center section;

3) said center section separated from each of said end sections by a first and second score line, each of said score lines transversely aligned with one another and extending from and perpendicular to said blank's free edge;

4) a laterally extending tab positioned between said score lines and coplanar with said blank;

5) said tabs formed by lines extending through the thickness of said paperboard thereby forming trapezoidal shaped tabs;

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- b) folding said first end section 180 degrees, about said score lines, so as to overlie said center section;
- c) folding said second end section 180 degrees about said score lines so as to overlie said first end section;
- d) affixing said first end section to said second end section thereby forming a generally flat preform;
- e) Expanding said preform to a generally cylindrical configuration and positioning said tabs inside said collar whereby said tabs engage the inside surface of said collar thereby maintaining said cylindrical shape.

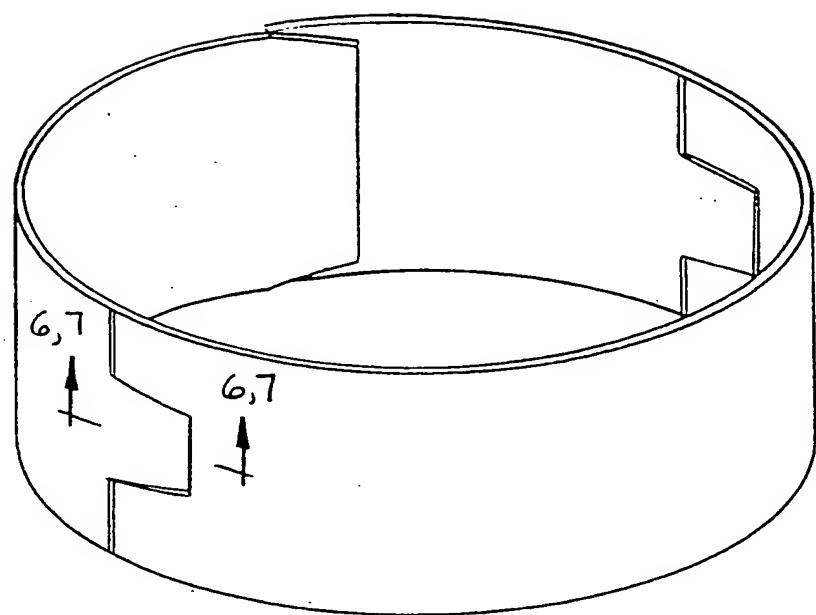


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

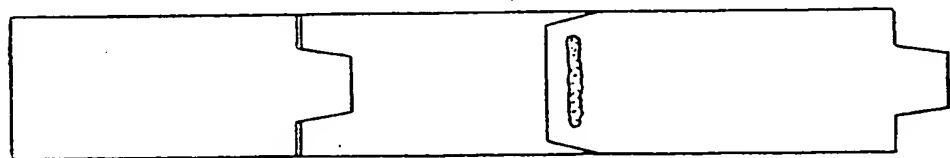


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

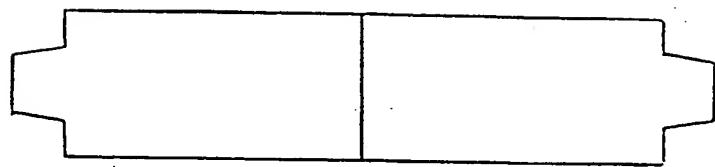


FIG. 5

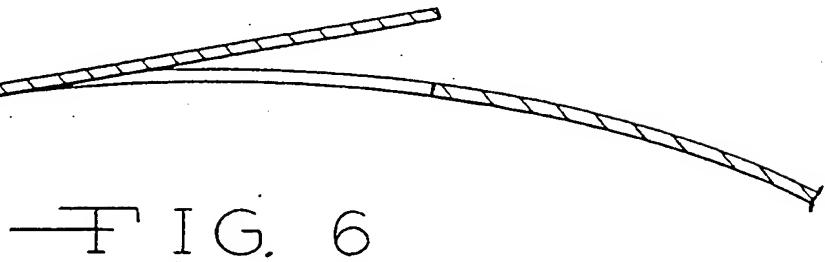


FIG. 6



FIG. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/27115A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B65D75/02 A47G21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B65D A47G

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	FR 2 329 521 A (INTERELCO INDIVIDUALE FALAVIGN) 27 May 1977 (1977-05-27) the whole document	1-5
A	GB 2 218 966 A (WU KIT WA) 29 November 1989 (1989-11-29) the whole document	1-5
A	US 4 494 785 A (SONG HO K) 22 January 1985 (1985-01-22) the whole document	1-5
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Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Information on patent family members

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